To-Day

DAILY REMINDER

and

DESK CALENDAR

Start Anytime

Week of MONDAY Sept 27 1943

Moved on board U. S. S. Blue Ridge which was in a state of animated confusion. First meal on board at 1200 (fair) Dr. Lucas is my room mate. Commissioning exercises held at 1400 on "Quarter" deck with Captain McDonell assuming command of ship. Watch set and colors manned. Ceremony was impressive in its simplicity.

Aboard U. S. S. Blue Ridge

TUESDAY Sept 28, 1943

Spent last night aboard Blue Ridge. Slept only fair. Up bright and early in A.M. to get under way up Hudson River and return to 33rd St. Pier. Did not go all the way up due to foggy conditions. Went only up between Manhattan and Jonesboro Isle and turned around. Dropped anchor in Government anchorage near Statue of Liberty. Then went back down to 33rd St.

WEDNESDAY Sept. 29, 1943

Slept ashore last night. Liberty expired at 0800 so had to get up earlier than usual to make it (Poor Peggy!). Hagan, my Pharmacist mate and I began the terrific job of taking on our Dental Supplies, checking them and unpacking them. Liberty at 1730, so went home

THURSDAY Sept. 30, 1943

Slept at 465 W 23rd Apt 15 for last time. Arrived aboard ship at 0800 and immediately went to work on the supplies. Things are shaping up very well in the Dental Office and it is beginning to look real nice. Went home at 1730. Peggy is all packed up to go to Montclair. We went out to Maison Blanc for dinner. Said good bye to Martha & Jack Robinson and left for Montclair

FRIDAY October 1, 1943

Heck! Had to get up at 0500 to make the ship by 0800. Must catch the 0557 train to make it (Still Poor Peggy). Still working on the office. Had my first patient in the new office today. Extracted 3rd molar for Chief Collatulla. Came out very easily, so got off to a good start. Left ship at 1130 for Montclair.

SATURDAY October 2, 1943

This 0500 business isn't so bad once you get accustomed to it, but who wants to get accustomed to it! I don't imagine Peggy likes it any more than I do. Had a few patients today and the equipment works nicely, thank you. Left for Montclair at 1300

Sunday October 3, 1943

Still 0500 on Sundays too. No mercy these people have on us commuters. Whoopee! 1300 Liberty

Sunday - Peggy and I took Paintings to museum with high hopes for a showing.

Week of MONDAY October 4 1943

Caught that old OS 37 again. Expected to have to stay aboard again but luckily our understanding "Expec" gave us liberty at 1730. Home wonderful. Peggy, we owe him a vote of thanks. Worked some more on Patents. Captain asked me about Pyoopa tooth powder. Told him it was a good product but not any better than lots of others.

TUESDAY October 5, 1943

Plans were to shove off for Bayonne at 0630 but due to delay it was 1030 before we actually did. Tugs took us over in short order. We tied up alongside Deperming station. Everybody toward in Watches and clocks, and some were taken ashore to prevent becoming magnetized. Liberty 1730 to 2300. I hiked off for home arriving at 1915 after riding the bus. Peggy was overjoyed to see me. Jim came back as far as Newark with me. I was ~~[illegible]~~ minutes late so train was late.

WEDNESDAY October 6, 1943

Shift well on board last night. Plans are to get underway for Oyster bay and trials at 0630. It was actually 0700. Admiral and staff aboard as inspecting party. It is a wonderful bright, clear, windy day. There is a good view of New York up through East River. Only cleared Brooklyn Bridge by a few feet. She is supposed to have made 17 knots. I was on flag bridge looking when an officer approached and started talking. He asked me about the guns and I told him what I knew. Then he asked my job and I responded, Dental Officer. He said you probably wouldn't be firing guns but you can put the bite into them in a different way. A very important job. Later I learned he was the Admiral!

THURSDAY October 7, 1943

I forgot to say that we anchored yesterday at Government anchorage #22 in New York Harbor after the trials. This morning two naval officers came over on a motor launch to check our compasses. This required all morning and about 12:30 we docked at Pier 33 Brooklyn. Liberty starts at 1730 and expires at 2400. Had a very busy day in the Dental Office. Was a nice fine shiney day. Went to see my Peggy at 1630 and was she surprised. Returned to ship at 2400.

FRIDAY October 8, 1943

Today is the day we begin our shake-down cruise. Off from New York at 0830 bound for Norfolk. Condition "Y" in effect. I am busy working on patients as we pull out. The sea is rather calm and the ship rolls but very little, so far no seasickness. We have drills all day "General Quarters" "fire drill" and "abandon ship". I was up on the bridge and the Captain asked if it were my first cruise. Hope I can sleep good tonight.

SATURDAY October 9, 1943

We were awakened rather abruptly this morning by the gong for Battle Stations. I hustled into my pants and shirt right over my P. J's. not knowing whether it was the real thing or just a drill. (Turned out to be a drill.) Radio received a report of ship being torpedoed 27 miles off our port bow. Never confirmed. We passed numerous patrol craft, planes, and a blimp before we hit the bay. About noon we anchored in the bay between Old Point Comfort and N.O.B.

Week of ~~MONDAY~~ Oct 10 1943

Sunday

Usual working day, no Sunday schedule. We have no chaplain on board so we had no church services. I had reveal potatoes.

In the evening we had a dinner of roast Long Island ducks, sweet potatoes, etc. which was very enjoyable. Later we had a wild west movie in the wardroom which was quite entertaining.

Monday ~~TUESDAY~~ Oct. 11, 1943

Up as usual at 0700 with a breakfast of eggs and bacon and to work at 0830. Drs. Gilbert and Lucas are performing a herniotomy, their first operation aboard this morning. An inspection party of about five captains came aboard to inspect from Comphibleant. About 1430 we weighed anchor for upper Chesapeake Bay.

Tuesday ~~WEDNESDAY~~ Oct 12, 1943

We are up in the bay near Cape Charles. Working on inspections. Nothing of note today.

Wednesday ~~THURSDAY~~ Oct 13, 1943

We are still up in Chesapeake Bay near Cape Charles. Adjusting Radio Beams.

Thursday ~~FRIDAY~~ Oct. 14, 1943

Same place. Doing approximately same work.

Friday October 15, 1943

The day we all look forward to (Pay Day) This morning the guns are being test fired for first time. The percussion from the 5 inch guns was a little annoying, otherwise it was fine. ~~One man~~ was hit in the shoulder by shrapnel from a 20 mm nothing serious. We weighed anchor at about 1030 for Norfolk Navy yard. Fog is thick as soup so we had to anchor off Fortress Monroe to wait for it to lift and also to get a pilot. About 1730 we weighed anchor again for the yard and arrived about 1950. I immediately went ashore and went to Norfolk (the yard is in Portsmouth) to call Peggy long distance. I got a line through about 8:45 and talked to Mamma Goodman

Peggy was out attending Jenny Weekes wedding. She promised to get Peggy and Jean to call back at 2200. I did, but operator says no one is in. I went right down to Hotel Monticello and put in call. I got Peggy right away and we must have run up a nice awful Bill as I talked for at least 15 minutes. Good night sweetheart

Saturday ~~TUESDAY~~ October 16, 1943

We are in Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Virginia. Had patients all morning. In afternoon I went ashore to try and get X-ray film. No luck. I ran into our Captain (McDonell) at officers club and owes a bottle of beer tell him my difficulty. He says send a communication to Duffy Defot, Brooklyn by radiogram for film which I did on returning to ship. This evening a bunch of my shipmates and I go to officers club for a few beers and enjoy it.

Sunday October 17, 1943

Oh boy! How I hate to roll out of my bunk at 0730. That's what hurts, not being able to sleep late on Sunday. Our first church services at 0930 held by Jr. Chaplain. Non-denominational services are held for all and then Mass for Catholics followed. The Chaplain is a very fine person and I enjoyed the service very much. Wrote letters to Peggy and Henry

Wednesday ~~THURSDAY~~ October 20, 1943

Executive officer gave me a two day leave. Left ship at 1730 to get Little Creek Navy bound for Cape Charles. Arrived at Cape Charles at 2000 and took train for Newark leaving at 2350. Unable to secure Pullman so spent night trying to sleep in day coach. Arrived in Newark at 0630. Went immediately to

~~FRIDAY~~ Thursday October 21

Montclair arriving at 0730. Peggy was still in bed and I surprised everyone. We had a wonderful day. Received a telegram in afternoon granting a two day extension (more good luck) That night we called Mother as it was her birthday and also talked to Henry. It was a wonderful day.

Friday ~~SATURDAY~~ October 22

We went in to New York (Peggy & I) and stopped at the Receiving Ship for a pair of shoes, sweater, cigarettes and nescafe. Then we had a malted milk and sandwich before going to the Radio City Music Hall. We enjoyed the show very much. Afterwards Peggy called Aunt Marion and we were invited out to dinner. They

~~Week of MONDAY~~

was up to a French Restaurant on 59th St. where we had a wonderful meal, as main course I drop legs and Crêpe Suzettes for dessert (Peggy!). It was a most enjoyable evening.

Saturday October 23

We just remained at home and enjoyed talking. Peggy painted a floral picture of beautiful roses which I

~~THURSDAY~~

had given her the previous day. In the afternoon we went for a long walk and ran in to Wally and Louise. They drove us over to see their new home after which we returned home for tea and coffee cake.

Sunday October 24

Peggy and I were up bright and early 0545 to get the train in Newark.

~~TUESDAY~~

We made the train having it 07:45 and Peggy went as far as Philadelphia with me. It was wonderful traveling with her, but was quite a let down when she was gone. I felt badly because I knew it would be a long long time before I would see her again. I hope I succeeded in making her think that I was happy. It is no easy thing

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to say goodbye to the one person in your life who means more to you than life itself, arrived in Norfolk at 1820 and on board at 1930. Wrote letters to Peggy and mother.

Monday, October 25

Up bright and early and spent the day getting one of the sailors who had lost his upper denture started

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on a new one at the Navy Yard Dispensary. At 1000 we had instruction at the Yard on gas defense. We donned gas masks and went into a gas chamber to observe how they protected us. When we left the chamber, we had to remove our masks and run out. It was a very practical thing as the tear gas irritated our eyes causing them to water + burn and tears to pour out. ~~XXXXXX~~ Tuesday 26 October

Week of MONDAY November 1, 1943

This is the big day, we have all been expecting. The ship is being prepared to pull out for our destination about 1200. We have about one hundred marines on board bound for Panama. We weighed anchor at about 1300 and pulled out of Hampton roads. It is a beautiful clear day, a wonderful day for cruising. I had a few patients in the afternoon and then went up on deck for air and the views. TUESDAY There is a destroyer on D.E. forward of us and an invasion transport aft of us. About 1700 a dirigible came over and took a look see at us. I could see some of the crew aboard they were so low. After dinner in the wardroom, we had movies. General quarters sounded at 2200 and everyone hurried to their battle station. I went to the radio room and heard the commanding officers talking back and forth to WEDNESDAY each other. Evidently someone had seen the wake of a fish so we were all ready for the worst.

At sea – Tuesday November 2, 1943

General quarters at 0615 brought everyone out. After breakfast at 0700 we had several more drills during the day. It is a beautiful sunshiny day and the wind is much warmer as we

THURSDAY

are now off Charleston S.C. about 300 miles out to sea. The water is a beautiful dark blue.

At sea Wednesday November 3, 1943

General quarters at 0615 brings everyone out. After breakfast, I went out on deck and saw some very small flying fish. As yet I have seen no large fish at all. I wrote letters to Ziggy and mother FRIDAY hoping to mail them in Guantanamo, Cuba. The weather is getting considerably warmer the farther south we go. In the evening there was a movie in the wardroom.

At sea Thursday November 4, 1943

Awakened by the G.Q. alarm at 0630, stayed at G.Q. until 0700. The sea is now very smooth and the ship hardly rolls at all. We have another G.Q. at SATURDAY 1930 followed by abandon ship. A plane flew over and circled around the Blue Ridge, the Warren (APA) the Anderson (Cruiser), and the "D.E." It gave us a good examination and went on its way. It was probably British. The Executive Officer announced that Blouses are not required in the Wardroom until further notice (Probably 2 yrs.). Before noon we passed the Bird Rock Island 8 miles off our port bow. We had a very beautiful

tropical sunset that evening with the blue waters picking up the red color of the sun and reflections in the clouds. The water is very calm and the ship hardly rolls at all.

Guantanamo, Cuba, Friday, November 5, 1943

I awoke at 0700 expecting to find that I had missed G.B. but there had been none. I find that we are now off Cuba preparing to enter Guantanamo Bay where we have a naval base. From the ship the island appears to be rather hilly and green. The topmost parts of the island have a bluish gray cast to them making a very beautiful scene. We did not expect to remain more than four hours but now find that we shall remain overnight and pull out in the morning. Liberty will begin at 1530 and I made the first Liberty boat (a liberty launch?) which took us to the Officers' Club landing on the base. It was a very beautiful tropical design club with a large central room and two wings, one which contained the bar and the other the dining room. Jeff, Ray and I went in together and drank a couple of beers after which we decided to walk over to the Marine Post Exchange, a mile away and boy was it hot walking. No wonder the natives just sit in the shade when the sun is shining. We had a swift shake and returned to the club by the bus and had dinner. After dinner we went out on the terrace which was a beautiful terrazzo, oval shaped, with nice comfortable chairs. The first comfortable chairs I have sat in since leaving Norfolk, there are none on the ship. Later we went upstairs over the clubhouse where they have two pool tables and two table tennis. We played for a while, then went below. Commander Jordan suggested that a group of us go over to Caimanera a native village about five miles away by boat, which we did. It was really a red light town wide open. While most of the others spent their time around drinking and looking at the native women, I started trying to talk to my smattering of Spanish with a small native boy who had been following us around. He liked trying to talk to me very much and he gave me a picture post card. We talked for over an hour and when I left I gave him a quarter which he reluctantly took as he seemed to like me very much.

At sea - Saturday November 6, 1943

We are on our way again having weighed anchor at 0700.

Sunday November 7, 1943 at sea

Week of MONDAY 19

8:00 We have church at sea, general church
8:30 services held in the Crewes mess by Fr.
9:00 Finan consisting of opening and closing prayers
9:30 three songs and a short sermonette in
10:00 which he mostly reminds the boys not to
10:30 forget the wives, sweethearts, and families
11:00 they have left behind and be true to them.
11:30 Warning them of Panama.
12:00

Monday November 8, 1943 at sea

TUESDAY

8:00 At 1300 we begin to see the shores of
8:30 Panama and at 1430, we enter the
9:00 first locks. I am highly impressed by the
9:30 greenery, the palms and banana trees.
10:00 Our trip through the Gatun locks is
10:30 quite exciting to most of us who have never
11:00 been through before. As most of the sailors
11:30 say, I studied about it in school but
12:00 never ever expected to see it, as it seemed
so very far away. WEDNESDAY It is a very
8:00 beautiful trip through this tropical greenery
8:30 Gatun locks, Gatun Lake the dirt cut
9:00 where so many lives were lost in the construction
9:30 and the last three locks, then to anchor at
10:00 the Navy Yard at Balboa.
10:30 Tuesday November 9, 1943 - Balboa, C.Z.
11:00 It is very much cooler than I had
11:30 expected. Evidently we are here at the
12:00 best time of the year, when the tropical heat

is not so intense. I have a burn ankle, so do
8:00 not plan on going ashore, will stay in my THURSDAY
8:30 bunk hoping that it will be better by tomorrow,
9:00 I hope to get something here for Peggy, as it
9:30 will probably be my last chance. I finally decided
10:00 to take a short walk over to Balboa, a couple
10:30 of blocks away. I bought some X-mas cards and
11:00 bananas and returned to the ship. A dozen
11:30 nice ripe bananas for 20¢, I gave most of them
12:00 to the boys in sick bay.

Balboa, C.Z. Wednesday FRIDAY November 10, 1943

8:00 Liberty is announced for 1300 today
8:30 and I am ready for it. Several of the other
9:00 fellows and myself went over to the Army
9:30 Post Exchange to do our shopping (X-mas)
10:00 I found a nice alligator bag for Peggy and
10:30 also some silver bracelets made in
11:00 Guatemala. I bought a bracelet for Peggy,
11:30 one for Norma Goodman and one for mother.
12:00 Later in the evening I went over to the

SATURDAY

8:00 city of Panama and wandered around. I
8:30 ran into a young officer who spoke Spanish
9:00 fluently and he showed me a few of the
9:30 points of interest. I found the churches to be
10:00 very good in their decorations using much
10:30 gold paint in the interior. Later I visited one
11:00 of the night clubs in the Spanish manner.
11:30 The entertainment was not of the best.
12:00 In the city of Panama I was dirty

outmoded and very low morally.

Thursday - November 11th

I went ashore again to Panama City this time seeing the Public Buildings and memorials. Of interest was the Panamerican Congress Building and the historic memorial to Panama and the construction of the canal. I bought a belt made of alligator and leather for Henry.

Friday TUESDAY November 12th

We shove off today for our destination the longest lap of the trip will be from Panama to Bora Bora Island, a small island in the Society Group northwest of Tahiti.

Wednesday November 17th (17th)

At about 8 A.M. we crossed the Equator. This morning King Neptune and his Royal Court Boarded the

WEDNESDAY

USS Blue Ridge for the first time, all of the Polliwogs are initiated by the Shellbacks and after much horseplay and foolishness they become Shellbacks. Most of the fellows ended up minus about half of their hair and very sore rear ends. Fortunately, they spared my hair and only cut half of my mustache which I have been growing since I left Panama.

Friday THURSDAY November 26, 1943

This morning we sighted land for the first time in fourteen days, and now are approaching the Island of Bora Bora in the Society Group just northwest of Tahiti. From the distance it appears to be one of Volcanic origin with a high rocky mountain surrounding it. It has a very tricky harbor to enter and before entering a pilot boarded us.

FRIDAY

The waters around here are very beautiful in the early morning sun, various colors of blues and then suddenly green can be seen, the colors probably being due to the coral reefs which run around most of the island. We anchored in the harbor and at 1200 we were allowed to go ashore on liberty. I took along my bathing trunks as did several of the other officers. The landing boat took us around to the officers landing where the Naval Officers have a club and a small pier from which they go in swimming. There are around 500 Navy men on the island and I understand the Army has about 2,000 men there also. I had a very nice swim in the waters which are very salty but very clear. After the swim we roamed around the

SATURDAY

island gathering coconuts, mangoes, bananas, and pineapple. We made our supper of these various fruits. We learned from a native the technique of peeling coconuts, which are very hard to do unless one knows the correct technique. We found the natives to be quite friendly and hospitable, inclined to laugh and smile easily. Oh yes, I forgot to mention that when we came into the harbor, large numbers of natives came out to meet us in their outrigger canoes with various fruits and ornaments such as beads and grass shirts for sale. Later in the evening we went to the club for drinks and then back to the ship at 2100.

TUESDAY

Saturday November 27, 1943

Lt Gilbert and I decided to make an expedition to the island this afternoon at 1300. The natives

WEDNESDAY

display grass shirts, beads, shells, wood carvings, etc on the porches of their homes for sale. The business seems to be well commercialized and the natives all hold the prices up very high (all war prices). I purchased two strings of beads and a bead bracelet, having decided that it would probably be too difficult to get a grass shirt back to the U.S.A. I remained aboard ship in the evening attending a movie.

Sunday

THURSDAY

November 28, 1943

I attended church services in the morning at 0800 and at 0900 officers and chief petty officers went ashore to play ball. I played in the second which our team won 15 to 8. I secured two hits in three trips to the plate. In the evening I went over to the naval officers club and had a delicious drink made from the juice of one lime, fresh pineapple ice, water and one

FRIDAY

jigger of rum to a glass. I won't to try it when I get back home. Some of the officers stationed on the island entertained us by telling about visiting Tahiti. What a wonderful place it was; its beauty, flowers, women, etc. Actually, I think some of them have gone native. Happy and the South seas have gotten into their blood. As they said, they would be willing to remain on the island.

SATURDAY

The most gorgeous sunset that I have ever seen affected last night. Pity you would have joined in it if you could have seen it.

Monday November 29, 1943

We left Bora Bora this morning and I understand that our next stop will be Tonga Tabu.

Wednesday Week of MONDAY December 1, 1943

This evening was quite eventfull for me. It was a beautiful evening and along about sunset, Ensign Kelly from Lafayette, Louisiana and I were sitting up on the flag bridge enjoying the breeze and the sunset when he suddenly said that he could see a ship on the horizon. At this point no one else on the ship had seen it and I could not see it although he tried to point it out to me. We went over to the telescope and looked through it and there she was, bigger could be, a cruiser of what nationality we could not tell. We called a Quartermaster over to see her and the Deck was notified. The chief quartermaster said she wasn't one of ours. Then General Quarters was sounded and everyone hurried to his station. Recognition signals were flashed back and forth and it was decided she was free French. What a relief to know that she wasn't the enemy so she could have certainly blasted us.

TUESDAY

Friday December 3, Sat. December 4, 1943

This is really two days as today we crossed the International date line and so ride becomes Saturday. At about 1500 we anchor in the harbor

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

of Tonga Tabu, the largest island in the friendly group. It is not as beautiful an island as Bora Bora but appears to be more civilized. I went ashore at 1700. The natives are much better educated and more civilized than those of Bora. The English have been criticized unjustly as tyrants in their treatment of their colonial possessions if this is a sample of it. I found that they have established good schools and churches all over the island and the natives are not unjustly taxed. A native upon reaching the age of 16 years is given a certain acreage of land and he pays a yearly tax upon it. This tax goes to help up the schools of the island. They have a very good college (at really amounts to what we call high school. The native boys seem to enjoy attending the school and probably derive great benefits from it. I talked to several of the natives and they spoke excellent English and I enjoyed the conversation very much. Really these people are no different from we Americans except for background and limited opportunities. They have their good people and their bad people, their intelligent

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

and intelligent people. Their morals are just as high as ours for a given group of people. They are very friendly and hospitable.

December 5, 1943 - Sunday

Attended church services in the morning at 0815. After church, I went ashore and watched a biggle with three other officers went riding through the countryside. They have some good TUESDAY roads and some good WEDNESDAY roads. I bought a piece of Tapa cloth with the island coat of arms on it. We rode out to see the native college (high school) It is for boys only and the boys all wear white shirts and white shirts on the shirts is the school coat of arms sewn on the pocket. The boys all seem to be very proud of their school and act quite gentlemanly. While we were there, they were having church services and their singing was very good. On our return trip we stopped on the invitation of a native at his hut where he served us bananas and pineapple and also gave to us a book about the island. I returned to the ship for dinner (lunch) In the afternoon we went over to the island for a softball game. We had movies in the wardroom tonight (Hit Parade of 1941 — ancient!)

December 6 THURSDAY Monday

Went over to the island in the afternoon and traded some old clothes for native baskets, beads, Tapa cloth, grass skirt and shell. One of the native boys went around with me carrying my baskets etc. We took one around to the Royal cemetary where the royal family is buried and they have several monuments. Then we went to see the Queen's Palace FRIDAY where I was entertained by native girl attendants who brought me pineapple juice and cake. The Palace was furnished quite plainly with long drapes and modernly style furniture.

Friday SATURDAY Dec. 11, 1943

Today we arrived in Australia and after a couple of hours ride up the River, we reached Brisbane. That night we went over to the Officers club for beers.

Saturday — Week of MONDAY Dec. 11 1943

Went to downtown Brisbane to look the place over. Most of the houses are built up high off the ground. They have wooden blinds built over the windows. I am introduced to the English coinage system.

5¢ = 3½ d (pence) $3 - 18/7d
10¢ = 7 d $7 - 1/4/5d
25¢ = 1/6d (1 shilling 6 pence) $5 - 1/10/7d
50¢ = 3/— d

TUESDAY

75¢ = 4/7d $3.2687 = £1 (1 pound)
1.00 = 6/1d
2.00 = 12/2d

Exchange

1 pence = 1½ cent 1 pound = $3.23
6 pence = 8 " 12 pence per shilling
1 shilling = 16 " 2 shillings per florin
1 florin = 32 " 20 " per pound
10 shillings = $1.61

The tram fare WEDNESDAY is two pence or 3¢ our money. They have women conductors. The stores look about like American stores offered 50 years ago. We are far ahead of these people in everything. Traffic goes to the left instead of the right. Their automobiles are right hand drive instead of left. The people seem to be very reserved like the

THURSDAY

English. The stores do not have much merchandise in them as a result of the war. You see the results of war here more than in the U.S. as there is a great scarcity of food, clothing and other commodities. Many automobiles use charcoal attachments in place of gasoline (petrol)

December 10 FRIDAY 1943

Today we arrived in Noumea, New Caledonia. I went over to town to look around. Most of the stores are closed down for lack of supplies. This is a French mandate island and of course the language is French and the architecture is French colonial. There are a number of Japanese here as well as native Caledonians.

SATURDAY

The thing that stands out above everything else on the island is the beautiful flamboyant trees. They look trees covered with beautiful red flowery blossoms. You see them all over the island.

Sunday Dec. 12, 1943

I went riding all over the island with Commander Gordon in a

many car. The island is quite mountainous but not very pretty. We saw very many Army and Navy installations. We must have a large number of troops there.

We went swimming on the beach in the afternoon. We saw Admiral Halsey pass in his car and I got a good look at him. He is a very stern impressive looking man.

TUESDAY

We left Milne on Tuesday Dec. 14, 1943

Friday, December 24, 1943

We arrived in Milne Bay, New Guinea this morning and anchored to a buoy near the USS Regel.

Saturday, December 25, 1943

Although one can hardly realize it today is Christmas day, the heat is terrific and we are 12,000 miles from home. I can think of nothing worse than being away from Peggy and home at Christmas. It makes me realize more how much I need her. I opened the presents which Peggy and the family sent and they were very nice. Peggy gave me a belt, gloves etc. (class, etc.), the usual pictures, and a piece of our wedding cake. Others sent cigarettes, candy, fruit cake,

THURSDAY

razor blades, stationery, cigarette case, + soap all of which is most useful.

In the afternoon, I went ashore to see the island. It is not a very pretty place hot and dusty, muddy when rainy. I saw Landing Strip #3 where 300 Australians slaughtered 3,000 Japs. Also remains of some of our planes which were struck by bombs. I went swimming later but the water was too warm and the beach dirty, the sand black.

Tuesday, December 28, 1943

We shoved off from Milne Bay at 0400. Scuttlebutt says we are on our way to Buna (Buna Mission) where most of the direction of activity takes place at this time.

Wednesday, Dec. 29, 1943

SATURDAY

We moved down the bay from Buna for a short distance to where the Admiral's destroyer is anchored. Admiral Barbey and our Army officers came aboard about 1030 this morning. There is a large amphibious force around here of 4 cruisers (Nashville, Phoenix) and 2 Australian cruisers,

Week of MONDAY 19

8:00 probably 8 or 10 destroyers and
8:30 many LCI's, LCT's, LST's, LSI's,
9:00 P.T.'s and Patrol craft of various
9:30 sorts. So action imminent?
10:00 Thursday Dec. 30, 1943
10:30 This morning Admiral Barsby came
11:00 around looking the ship over and I was
11:30 introduced to him. He is a very
12:00 pleasant fine looking man of about 45.
About 4:30

TUESDAY

8:00 showed off and at 6 a group of LST's
8:30 showed off. It appears as though
9:00 another amphibious operation is
9:30 about to begin.
10:00 We had movies out on deck tonight
10:30 although we are within an hours
11:00 flying time of the Japs. Who's afraid of
11:30 the big bad wolf? It was really
12:00 enjoyable as there was a very nice
breeze and it was the coolest
I have been all day.

WEDNESDAY

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